IN THE CLAIMS

1.-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:

locating a dermal area of said patient ~~approximating a meridian~~;

a user statically contacting, with a probe, said dermal area and allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said dermal area, said probe comprising:

a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said dermal area;

a probe tip operably connected to a biasing element to apply said pressure to said dermal area;

a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;

a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin;

said biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and operating to dynamically adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and

obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin ~~corresponding to said meridian~~.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said locating a dermal area further comprises providing a point locator for indicating a dermal location having a substantially greater bioelectric conductance value than a surrounding dermal area, said point locator configured to produce audible signals indicating said location.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said probe further comprises:

a conductive base; and

an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said dermal area.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value.

11. (currently amended) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:

measuring relative conductance of a dermal area of said patient ~~proximate a meridian~~;

a user statically contacting with a probe the skin and allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to the skin, said probe comprising:

a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said location;

a probe tip operably connected to a biasing element to apply a pressure to said location;

a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;

a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin; and

said biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and operating to dynamically adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and

obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin ~~corresponding to said meridian~~.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said measuring relative conductance of a dermal area further comprises:

iteratively measuring a bioelectric conductance value of a surface of said dermal area;

iteratively comparing a first said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a first surface location to a second said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a second surface location;

audibly indicating a dermal location where said second bioelectric conductance value is substantially greater than said first bioelectric conductance value.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said probe further comprises:

a conductive base; and

an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said dermal area.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value corresponding to said pressure.

15.-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising locating said ~~meridian~~ dermal area, wherein said dermal area is a first dermal area by:

locating successive dermal areas approximating said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area;

said user statically contacting said successive dermal areas with said probe;

allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said successive dermal areas in accordance with said feedback signal; and

determining a dermal location corresponding to said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area before obtaining said electrical signal corresponding to said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising locating said ~~meridian~~ dermal area, wherein said dermal area is a first dermal area by:

said user statically contacting successive dermal areas proximate said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area with said probe;

allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said successive dermal areas in accordance with said feedback signal; and

determining a dermal location corresponding to said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area before obtaining said electrical signal corresponding to said ~~meridian~~ first dermal area.

19. (new) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:

locating a first dermal area of said patient exhibiting higher conductivity than adjacent dermal areas;

a user statically contacting, with a probe, said dermal area and allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said dermal area, said probe comprising:

a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said dermal area;

a probe tip operably connected to a biasing element to apply said pressure to said dermal area;

a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;

a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin;

said biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and operating to dynamically adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and

obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said first dermal area.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said locating a first dermal area further comprises providing a point locator for indicating a dermal location having a substantially

greater bioelectric conductance value than a surrounding dermal area, said point locator configured to produce audible signals indicating said location.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said probe further comprises:

a conductive base; and

an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said dermal area.

22. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value.

23. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising locating said first dermal area by:

locating successive dermal areas approximating said first dermal area;

said user statically contacting said successive dermal areas with said probe;

allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said successive dermal areas in accordance with said feedback signal; and

determining a dermal location corresponding to said first dermal area before obtaining said electrical signal corresponding to said first dermal area.

24. (new) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:

measuring relative conductance of a first dermal area of said patient exhibiting higher conductivity than adjacent dermal areas;

a user statically contacting with a probe the skin and allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to the skin, said probe comprising:

a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said location;

a probe tip operably connected to a biasing element to apply a pressure to said location;

a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;

a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin; and

said biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and operating to dynamically adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and

obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said meridian.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said measuring relative conductance of a first dermal area further comprises:

iteratively measuring a bioelectric conductance value of a surface of said first dermal area;

iteratively comparing a first said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a first surface location to a second said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a second surface location;

audibly indicating a dermal location where said second bioelectric conductance value is substantially greater than said first bioelectric conductance value.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said probe further comprises:

a conductive base; and

an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said first dermal area.

27. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value corresponding to said pressure.

28. (new) The method of claim 24, further comprising locating said first dermal area by:

said user statically contacting successive dermal areas proximate said first dermal area with said probe;

allowing said probe to dynamically vary a pressure applied by said probe to said successive dermal areas in accordance with said feedback signal; and

determining a dermal location corresponding to said first dermal area before obtaining said electrical signal corresponding to said first dermal area.